
SFY 2012 Regional Funding Plan

Colorado River Indian
Tribes Regional
Partnership Council

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First Things First State Board
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FIRST THINGS FIRST

**COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
FUNDING PLAN SFY 2012
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

- I. Regional Allocation Summary (Funds Available)**
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Section I

Regional Allocation Summary

The following chart shows the total available funds to the Regional Council, by funding sources.

Allocations and Funding Sources	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012
Population Based Allocation	136,247	131,304	131,158
Discretionary Allocation	72,567	73,079	76,008
Other (FTF fund balance addition)		28,787.43	24,399
Additional Income (other than FTF tobacco tax)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carry Forward from Previous Year		62,071.15	53,936.58
Total Regional Council Funds Available	208,814.00	295,241.58	285,501.58

Section II Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012

For 2012 planning, Regional Councils are asked to review the strategies from years prior while they consider direction for SFY 2012. At their September 2010 meeting, the First Things First Board adopted priorities as were recommended by the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force. Following is the list of five priorities for First Things First action within the next one to three years. These are the roles for which FTF will establish measurable benchmarks and devote resources in order to achieve results for Arizona's young children and their families. These priorities are services which could be funded at both state and regional levels. Throughout this 2012 Regional Funding Plan, there are references to these new priorities. They are:

Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education programs.

Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

Building Public Awareness and Support - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.

Professional Development System - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.

Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services - Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.

In addition, the Task Force recommended that FTF take a leadership role in three priorities that focus on program and process development at the state level. These are:

Early Childhood System Funding – Secure, coordinate, and advocate for resources required to develop and sustain the early childhood system. [This does not mean that FTF would be the sole funder of the early childhood system, but would take an active role in helping to increase and coordinate available resources.]

Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation - Convene partners and provide leadership in the development and implementation of a comprehensive early care and education system that is aligned both across the spectrum of settings and with the full continuum of the educational system.

Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and implementation of quality standards for early childhood care and education programs and related curricula and assessments. [This is integral to improving the quality of early care and education settings.]

Section II A Progress with SFY 2010 and 2011 Funding Plans And SFY 2012 Planning

The table below provides a summary of the Regional Partnership Council's prioritized needs and strategies for SFY 2012, as well as information on progress in SFY 2010 and SFY 2011.

PRIORITY NEED 1 : Quality, Access & Affordability						
Description: Due to limited resources and the high cost of early child care, the regions' families are in need of additional home care providers as well as assistance in affording the cost of child care.						
Strategy: Child Care Scholarships (Statewide)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Access to Quality – Scholarships: Coordinate with existing programs to maintain families' access to early care and education programs through child care scholarships. Priority given to infants and toddlers, low-income families, single parent families and families with special needs children.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Scholarships	17	N/A	65	20	22	28
Strategy: Expansion: Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense						
Regional Title and/or short description: Quality Access Affordability –Support home care providers to become regulated by assisting with insurance costs.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Number of Homes Participating	3	N/A	N/A	3	4	3

Summary of Progress and Challenges
Rationale for Changes to SFY12
Alignment with Strategic Direction

1. Strategy Success

The region's child care scholarships have made a positive impact within the community allowing low income, single parent and families of children with special needs who initially could not afford it, to enroll their children in high quality early care. The scholarships have provided a continuum of care within a quality early childhood environment which can prepare children to succeed later in life. Fifty-five scholarships were awarded to the region's center-based programs in addition to 10 home based child care scholarships awarded.

Recognizing that family child care home providers are often the choice of care for families with infants and toddlers, the Regional Council has developed this strategy to assist child care homes in becoming regulated. This in turn has provided the region's families with more quality choices. In addition, this strategy has provided opportunities for home care providers to enhance the quality of their services, receive training and become a certified home care provider. Assistance with insurance costs will offset financial barriers to the region's providers. SFY 2010 began the recruitment process for home care providers to participate in the process to become regulated, four (4) potential participants have responded.

2. Strategy Challenges

The Expansion Strategy did not immediately start up due to the length of time to recruit a regional service provider. Additionally, the development of a service agreement took time to finalize. The service provider is also required to follow tribal protocol in the efforts of recruiting child care providers on tribal land; therefore, collaborations between the service provider and the Colorado River Indian Tribes have required additional outreach and recruitment time.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

There are no modifications to this strategy, however further collaborative efforts with the Colorado River Indian Tribes are currently in process to recruit potential care providers residing on the reservation.

4. First Things First Priorities

Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings: These strategies provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education programs.

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PRIORITY NEED 2 : Health						
Description of prioritized need: Due to a lack of capacity and a shortage of professional staff working or residing within the region, specialized therapeutic services for special needs children are limited.						
Strategy: Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (Multi-region)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Recruitment Stipends - Therapist Incentives: Increase availability of skilled early childhood workforce providing therapeutic services directly with children. Increase the number of therapists supporting children birth to age five identified with special needs and in need of therapy services by providing financial incentives to work in the region.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Professionals receiving stipends	-0-	Strategy not awarded in SFY 2010		1	1	1
Strategy: Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity						
Regional Title and/or short description: Support families' access to information, education and services that promote healthy weight, nutrition and physical activity.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families, children, pregnant women	200	200	395	200	200	200

Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
<p>1. Strategy Success</p> <p>Nutrition, Obesity, Physical Activity: Recognizing the need to address the overall health of children, specifically the risk of diabetes, the Colorado River Indian Tribes Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) initiated courses to become certified in the area of Diabetes Care and Education. Once certified, the DPP staff will be able not only to provide education on diabetes prevention (importance of good nutrition, healthy weight, physical activity) but also perform prevention screenings (finger prick to read blood sugar levels) for pregnant women and children birth through age five and their parents. Thus far, DPP has provided community awareness on nutrition, obesity, and physical activity to 395 families by sponsoring and collaborating in health fairs, community awareness nights and Head Start Parent Nights.</p> <p>The LaPaz/Mohave Region has added the Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness strategy in SFY 12 which will support the CRIT region’s stipend strategy greater opportunity to successfully recruit an early intervention therapist professional to provide services to both the CRIT and LaPaz/Mohave regions. This cross regional collaboration and the resulting combination of funding resources will offer a more enticing incentive opportunity that will secure a potential service provider for both regions.</p>
<p>2. Strategy Challenges Recruitment, Stipends/Loan Forgiveness: SFY 2011 began the recruitment process for a professional who will provide occupational, speech and physical therapy to serve the Region’s children with developmental delays. Since the recruitment process has not yet identified a candidate this strategy is not yet fully implemented. Outreach and recruitment continues.</p>
<p>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</p> <p>The strategies will continue with out modification.</p>
<p>4. First Things First Priorities</p> <p>Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services – These strategies allow existing health providers to collaborate with community partners to increase access to high quality health care services for special needs children, pregnant women and children, including community education on the importance of early screenings.</p>

PRIORITY NEED 3: FAMILY SUPPORT						
Description of prioritized need: The First Things First 2010 Needs and Assets Report indicates that fourth graders in Arizona are in the lowest 20 percent of the nation in reading, demonstrating the need to promote increased early literacy levels. The CRIT Regional Partnership Council has also recognized parents' and care providers' literacy levels need to be enhanced in order to support their child's early literacy development.						
Strategy: Community-Based Literacy						
Regional Title and/or short description: Family Support/Early Literacy: Early Literacy Enhancement: Expand existing early language and family literacy programs by incorporating an adult literacy education component						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families of Children Ages Birth to Five Years	25	N/A	N/A	25	25	25
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success – Collaboration between the Colorado River Indian Tribes Library and the LaPaz County Career Center has been established to lay the foundation for this strategy to be implemented.						
2. Strategy Challenges – Strategy implementation began in July 2010; therefore, the service provider has not yet fully implemented the strategy as originally anticipated. As implementation continues, more information will be available on this strategy that will help determine success and/or challenges.						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 – In order to meet Arizona's new requirement where 3 rd grade children will be required to pass the 3 rd Grade AIMS Reading Test in order to be promoted, the Regional Council approved an increase in funding to expand early literacy efforts for the region's children.						
4. First Things First Priorities Supports and Services for Families – This strategy will provide the opportunity for the development and enhancement of the region's community family literacy resources to be culturally responsive for parents, care providers of young children.						

PRIORITY NEED 4: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT						
Description of prioritized need: Limited professional development resources are available in the region; professional development opportunities have been created to provide assistance in obtaining academic degrees in early education and additional training to improve early care and education skills.						
Strategy: Scholarships TEACH (Statewide)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Professional Development: ECE Scholarships, T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps): Increase availability of skilled early childhood workforce directly caring for or teaching young children. Expand access to Teacher Education And Compensation Helps Early Childhood Arizona Scholarships.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Early Childhood Development Staff	4	4	No enrolled scholars	4	4	2
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success – This strategy has not met the anticipated target outcomes. The region currently has no enrolled TEACH scholars.						
2. Strategy Challenges Outreach efforts have been insufficient and lacking in follow-up to reach the target population of child care providers in our rural/tribal community.						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 Since this strategy has not had anticipated results and may not change in the upcoming year, scholarships have been decreased from four (4) to two (2) for SFY 2012.						
4. First Things First Priorities Professional Development System – Scholarships will provide funding to support professional development to the region’s early childhood teachers and caregiver staff which will enhance the quality of our early childhood programs.						

PRIORITY NEED 5: COORDINATION	
Description of prioritized need: In order to meet limited early childhood development and health resources available to the region, professional development opportunities have been created to provide assistance in obtaining continuing education and training for professional staff working directly with families and their young children.	
Strategy: Court Teams	
Regional Title and/or short description: Coordination - Professional Development: Cross Region Coordination with LaPaz/Mohave region's Court Team strategy: Enhance professional skills of the Early Childhood Development and Health workforce to promote the healthy social-emotional development of young children through the participation by CRIT early childhood professionals. The target number of professional's to reach is 25.	
Strategy: Community Awareness	
Regional Title and/or short description: Working in partnership with the Regional Council and First Things First Board, implement a community awareness campaign to make early childhood development and health one of Arizona's top priorities.	
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction	
1. Strategy Success The Region's unfunded Court Team strategy has been very successful with the cross-regional collaboration opportunity with LaPaz/Mohave's funded Court Team strategy. Data reports from FY 2011 indicate 669 participants attended training sessions within the LaPaz/Mohave and CRIT regions. The Community Awareness strategy will continue to be unfunded due to the Regional Council members' current outreach efforts within the community and due also to the result of effective cross-regional collaboration efforts with the LaPaz/Mohave regions Community Outreach Liaison. Regional agencies provide services to families within both the CRIT and LaPaz/Mohave areas, therefore the LaPaz/Mohave Community Liaison's outreach efforts have been provided to the CRIT region.	
2. Strategy Challenges The Regional Council has not faced any challenges with this strategy.	
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 No changes	
4. First Things First Priorities Building Public Awareness and Support – These strategies provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among professional partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.	

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Section II B Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments (January 5, 2011)

Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council Funding Plan					2012 Proposed Allotments
	2010		2011		2012
FY Allocation	\$208,814.00		\$233,170.43		\$231,565.00
Carry Forward From Previous Year	na		\$62,071.15		\$53,936.58
Total Funds Available	\$208,814.00		\$295,241.58		\$285,501.58
Strategies	Allotted	Expended	Allotted	Awarded	Proposed
Child Care Scholarships (State-wide)	\$126,348.00	\$126,348.00	\$144,000.00	\$144,000.00	\$188,144.00
Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense	\$7,500.00	\$755.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (Multi-Region)	\$16,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$5,000.00
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	\$27,102.00	\$5,424.26	\$27,102.00	\$27,102.00	\$27,102.00
Community-based Literacy	\$15,245.00	\$0.00	\$20,245.00	\$20,245.00	\$25,000.00
Scholarships TEACH (State-wide)	\$14,700.00	\$1,615.59	\$14,700.00	\$14,700.00	\$6,600.00
Court Teams	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Awareness	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Food Insecurity	\$1,919.00	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2012 Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,005.00
Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,418.00	\$9,418.00	\$0.00
Child Care Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$964.00	\$964.00	\$0.00
Children's Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$91.00	\$91.00	\$0.00
Arizona Health Survey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$379.00	\$379.00	\$0.00
Parent Kits - Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$466.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Needs and Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$440.00	\$244.00	\$0.00
Total	\$208,814.00	\$146,742.85	\$241,305.00	\$240,643.00	\$269,351.00
Carry Forward to Following Year		\$62,071.15	\$53,936.58		\$16,150.58

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Section II C Provide information about changes in funding level for strategies from 2011 to 2012

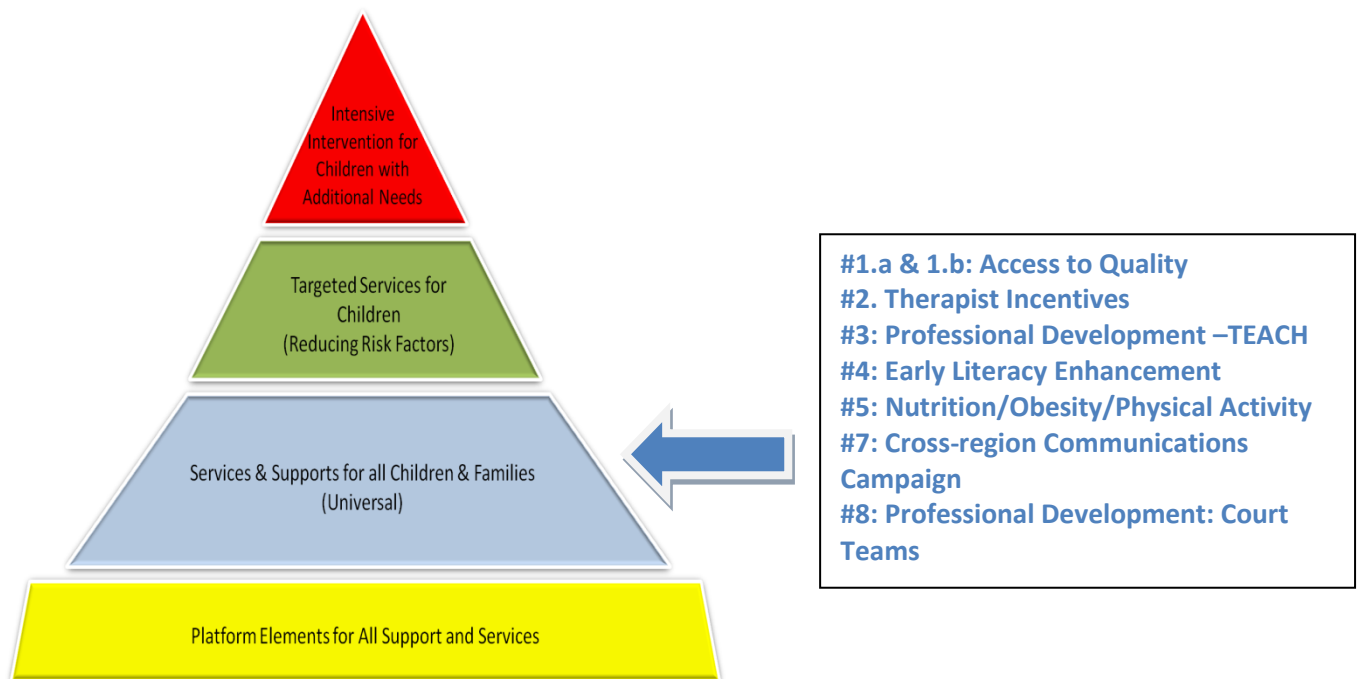
Strategy Name	Previous Funding Amount (SFY 2011)	New Funding Amount (SFY 2012)	Rationale for Change in Funding
Child Care Scholarships	\$144,000	188,144	Based on the successful impact scholarships have made within the community, the Regional Council approved an increase of eight (8) additional scholarships.
Scholarships T.E.A.C.H.	\$14,700	\$6,600	No scholarships were awarded in SFY 2010. With four (4) additional Quality First statewide scholar slots, the Regional Council determined two (2) TEACH slots would be sufficient for the region.
Community - Based Literacy	\$15,245	\$25,000	The Regional Council approved an increase to enhance early literacy efforts for the region's children in response to the state's proposed 2014 4 th grade requirement where 3 rd grade children will be required to pass the 3 rd Grade Aims Reading Test in order to be promoted to the 4 th grade.
Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness	\$16,000	\$5,000	This strategy was not implemented until SFY11. The contract was sufficiently funded in SFY11 to support one therapist; \$5,000 additional funding will support all administrative and program costs for SFY12.
Carry Forward		16,150.58	The Regional Council's intent is to utilize carry forward for the continuation of funding of critical programs into SFY 2013.

Section III

System Building Impact

The Colorado Indian Tribes (CRIT) Regional Council prioritized strategies according to the geographical location of the CRIT region, accessibility of services, and gaps within the existing services for the region's families with young children. The vast rural region is comprised of families from various ethnic backgrounds where family dynamics and traditional cultures play a vital role in the early development of children birth through five years. The 2010 Needs and Assets Report and collaboration with existing community agencies also contributed to the identification of effective services and missing or insufficient resources.

The Regional Council also took into consideration the early stages of program implementation of currently funded strategies as well as those that have made a positive impact within the community. Based on this, the CRIT Regional 2012 Funding Plan has no major revisions, however action was taken to increase and decrease two strategic areas. This will ultimately support First Things First efforts to create a sustainable early childhood development and health system for the entire community that will impact the region's birth through five population.



A thorough analysis of the impact of the SFY 2010 funded strategies helped the Council determine that strategies need to be realistically funded to assist in building a solid, early childhood system. The Regional Council defined regional strategies within the universal tier, which focus on the following three themed dimensions: Access to Early Care and Education, Workforce Development and Parent Education and Awareness.

In support of access to early care and education, the Regional Council's Quality and Access strategies support a much needed venue in this rural community. As reported in the 2010 CRIT Needs and Assets Report, there are limited choices and availability among early care services for children birth through three years of age. Families within the region rely heavily on unregulated home care providers for infants and toddlers. Approximately 47 percent of preschool aged children are enrolled in regulated early childhood programs. However, due to age enrollment and base rate criteria, only 5 percent of the region's infants and toddlers are enrolled in licensed or regulated child care settings. In 2008, the US Census estimated that 44 percent of the young children in LaPaz County lived in poverty. The region's median family income is \$31,092 (U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Estimates, Branch, 2008). The region's Early Child Care Scholarships will allow families with infants and toddlers to meet the high cost of enrolling their child in a licensed or regulated early childhood program. In SFY 2010, 55 Scholarships were awarded to the region's center-based programs along with 10 home based child care scholarships awarded. The region's only licensed home care provider recently closed its doors, leaving families in the region without any regulated home care. Under the Access to Quality strategy, three (3) of the Region's unregulated home care providers will become regulated. SFY 2010 began the recruitment process for home regulation with four (4) potential participants responding to the application process. Child and Family Resources, who currently holds the contract for the region's home regulation strategy, continues to meet with the Colorado River Indian Tribes in the effort of creating a working collaboration to assist potential applicants residing on the reservation to become regulated while adhering to CRIT's tribal protocols.

The Regional Council acknowledges the importance and impact of early identification and intervention on a developing child, especially a child with special needs. According to the 2010 First Things First Needs and Assets Report, data indicates that the region's pre-school aged children have more opportunities for early screenings and diagnosis compared to the regions infant and toddler population. The region currently has two specialized staff providing therapy services to pre-school aged children with special needs. This staff is funded through the Parker Unified School District and provides therapeutic services to all children identified with special needs within the school districts at risk preschool and the local Head Start. The school district reported 12 Individual Education Plans were in place for its enrolled preschool aged children while the 2009-2010 Colorado River Indian Tribes Program Information Report states 33 Individual Education Plans were developed for Head Start enrolled children. This confirms a minimum caseload of approximately forty-five children for this school district staff. The dimension of workforce development is addressed through the region's Therapist Incentives strategy which will increase opportunity for early detection through screenings of infants and toddlers. Due to gaps within service delivery, Infants and toddlers within the Region have limited access to professional screenings through the local Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), resulting in an inconsistency of services. Those with a potential disability are referred to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). In 2010, DDD reported four children under the age of three had completed early screenings and were officially diagnosed with a disability. Cross-collaboration between both the CRIT Region's Recruitment-Stipend strategy and the LaPaz/Mohave region's Recruitment – Stipend/Loan Forgiveness strategy will not only support collaboration between the CRIT and LaPaz/Mohave Regions, but enhance both regions opportunity of recruiting and retaining a qualified therapist.

The region's rural location creates barriers for consistent professional development opportunities for those staff serving children within the mental health area. The Professional Development Cross-Regional Coordination strategy will support collaboration between the CRIT and LaPaz/Mohave Regions. Under the LaPaz/Mohave's Infant and Toddler Court Teams Strategy, professional staff comprised of emergency response/crisis shelters, foster care, child welfare professionals, court judges, child

protection services workers and other mental health providers will receive specialized training and technical assistance on infant and toddler mental health. The development of a cross-regional strategy will not only provide specialized training opportunities for the regions professionals, it will create linkages, improved service delivery, solid capacity building and allow for cross-regional data sharing. Within the regions funded T.E.A.C.H strategy, scholarships have been decreased from four (4) to two (2). Due to the lack of participants the Regional Council took into consideration that in combination with the region's Quality First statewide scholarships, six (6) scholarships are available. The Regional Council has communicated their concern regarding effective outreach efforts for the region's rural and tribal community and it is with great anticipation that the regions early childhood development staff will take advantage of this opportunity.

In alignment with the above-mentioned dimensions, the Parent Education and Awareness area responds to the Region's early screening, early literacy enhancement and health prevention opportunities for children ages birth through five. Lack of opportunity is not necessarily due to the lack of services, but rather the reaction of parents and caregivers in seeking resource and support assistance. In order to meet Arizona's 2014 4th grade promotion requirement where 3rd grade children will not be promoted if their AIMS reading score indicates they are reading far below the third-grade level, the Regional Council approved an increase in funding to enhance early literacy efforts for the region's children and their families. Awareness of the AIMS requirement along with recognizing the literacy history of the parent such as those parents lacking a high school diploma, the adult literacy component will enable and empower adults to attain enhanced literacy skills. Parents and caretakers need the opportunity to reach appropriate literacy levels prior to expecting them to become the primary teacher of their child. Enhanced early literacy programs will also allow greater opportunity for parents and caretakers to understand and appreciate the vital importance of early brain development. The Regional Council also feels family literacy programs must incorporate the entire family's characteristics as well as the diverse background of the community, therefore culture appropriate mechanisms will be promoted such as traditional languages and practices.

With the high prevalence of diabetes and obesity rates within tribal communities, the Regional Council supported its Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity strategy with the intent of supporting collaboration efforts between the community's health, early childhood and family support programs. In some instances, families who practice traditional cultures may be hesitant in bringing attention to their families' personal problems, experience trust issues with service providers or impose self-inflicted stigmas when it comes to acknowledging their child has a physical or health issue. The Community Education and Awareness prevention screening effort implemented within the regions Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity strategy has allowed the Colorado River Indian Tribes Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) Staff to enroll in courses to become certified in the area of Diabetes Care and Education to provide education and prevention screenings to pregnant women and children. DPP has provided community awareness to 395 families by sponsoring and collaborating in health fairs, community awareness nights and Head Start Parent Nights. This strategy will continue to increase knowledge within families and the community with an added dimension of prevention screenings that will identify a child who may be at risk for health and developmental concerns. Identification of potential risks can provide support to the entire families and allow them to adopt healthy lifestyle skills, such as diabetes prevention, nutrition and physical activity. Families may not be aware of support opportunities or simply lack the knowledge of how to request these services. It is the intent of this

strategy to allow an appropriate scope and outreach approach to educate on the importance of early screening, promote the availability of services and advocate for trusting relationships between the community's resource staff and families. Once a professional relationship is created, education of parents and caregivers can begin structuring a foundation of well being for their child.

The First Things First Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council, with its community partners, will continue to work to enhance a system that builds and sustains a coordinated, culturally responsive and supportive network of early childhood programs and health services for the young children of the region. The Regional Council recognized the above-mentioned concerns and developed a strategic funding plan that will continue to work in enhancing a system that builds and sustains a coordinated, culturally responsive and supportive network of early childhood programs and health services for the region's families and children.